

Quality Documentation & Coding Pearls

Ineke M. Ayubi-Moak, MD

CANCER

Unfortunately many of our patients have or have had cancer. The majority of these cancer survivors are seniors and the number is growing. It is important to document and diagnose cancer as specifically and accurately as possible.



Use an **active** ICD-9 code as long as the patient is:

- Waiting for treatment/surgery
- Undergoing watchful waiting before treatment begins
- Refuses treatment
- Receiving chemotherapy or radiation therapy
- Taking adjuvant therapy like Lupron or Tamoxifen

Once the patient has finished treatment (is considered cured or has no evidence of disease), diagnose the patient with **history of** cancer and use the appropriate V code.

You play a vital role in the health and well-being of your cancer survivors during their transition from active to post treatment care.

You will monitor them as they are undergoing:

- Surveillance for recurrence (risk increases w/smoking & alcohol use so counsel your patients)
- Screening for secondary cancers
- Monitoring of late & long-term effects of the cancer & its treatment both physical & psychological: lymphedema, sexual dysfunction, cardiomyopathy, peripheral neuropathy, depression, anxiety, sleep disturbance, fatigue, pain, & obesity
- Management of common comorbid conditions (ie. Diabetes & CHF) & continued routine preventive care

Coordination with the oncologist to provide the most comprehensive care is important and will lead to improved longevity and quality of life for your patients.

Don't forget to **VALIDATE: DIAGNOSIS, STATUS & PLAN**
Call the Arizona Priority Care HCC/STAR department with questions (480) 499-8764

CODING TIPS

Most common cancer types among survivors

153.x = Colon cancer
154.x = Rectal cancer
172.x = Malignant melanoma
174.x = Breast cancer
179 = Uterine cancer
185 = Prostate cancer
188.x = Bladder cancer
193 = Thyroid cancer
202.8x = Non-Hodgkins lymphomas

When diagnosing metastatic disease, state the primary site and the secondary site (place of metastasis)

196.x = Secondary malignancy to lymph nodes
197.x & 198.x = Secondary malignancy to major organs

The 4th digit denotes a more specific location

Varies with cancer type

The 5th digit in Lymphoma & Leukemia

(Never use "History of" for leukemia)
(After 5 years of lymphoma in remission, then use "History of")

0 = w/o remission

1 = in remission

2 = in relapse

Most common complications of cancer treatment

357.7 = Neuropathy 2° chemo/rad
284.11 = Pancytopenia 2° chemo
263.9 = Malnutrition
296.xx = Major depression
425.9 = Cardiomyopathy



www.azprioritycare.com